

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

285

June 9, 1967

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. W. W. ROSTOW

SUBJECT: The Security Council Meeting, Friday, June 9 - Part I

(Early this morning George Tomeh, the Syrian representative, asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to deal with a massive Israeli advance. The meeting was set for 10:00, but the whole morning was spent in consultation -- with Syria pressing for a cease-fire and withdrawal and Western members pressing for a simple cease-fire. The lowest common denominator won, and there was agreement by all that Tabor present a resolution calling for a cease-fire forthwith and instructing the Secretary General to consult with Israel and Syria and report back in two hours.)

The meeting convened at noon and the Secretary General read reports from UN observers indicating a massive Israeli advance, but also support <sup>of</sup> Israel's contention of shelling from the Syrian side. The Secretary General also reported Israeli bombing in the vicinity of Damascus and the presence of 200 Israeli planes, active over the Syrian front.

Tomeh repeated his charges of attack and bombing; and Rafael of Israel repeated his statement that Syria's shelling of the Israeli civilian population was the first hostile act. Tabor presented his resolution, which was voted unanimously.

Goldberg asserted that we must put first things first and get a cease-fire. He supported the Canadian proposal that the President of the Security Council and the Secretary General should be empowered to take a more active role.

Fedorenko denounced Israeli aggression and urged the withdrawal of Israeli troops. India supported Fedorenko's position and called for censure of Israel for the death of Indian UNEF personnel. The Indian also expressed condolence to the U.S. for our shipboard deaths.

After a brief intervention by Argentina, Brazil and Bulgaria, Tomeh of Syria reported Syrian acceptance of the Security Council resolution (after having talked to his Foreign Minister by phone) and said Israeli attacks were increasing by the minute and paratroopers had been dropped at Qnaitra. Rafael promised a reply from his government as soon as he could get instructions. Fedorenko asserted that the Security Council would not adjourn until Israel gives its answer. Goldberg added that the United States also awaits an answer. Tomeh intervened again to say he understood the Israeli army was at the gates of Damascus.

Rafael gave the answer of his government that Israel accepts the cease-fire resolution providing Syria does, and does so sincerely. He added that the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EO 12958 Sec. 3.1  
101-1-2 00001  
By RL/sc NARA, Date 3/23/00

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2

Syrians were still shelling Israeli border villages.

Tabor welcomed the news of acceptance by both sides. Fedorenko asserted the Israeli answer was ambiguous -- casuistry and mockery. Rafael answered that it takes two to make a cease-fire and that orders must be given to the commanders in the field. Israel has undertaken to give such orders and expects Syria to do the same.

Fedorenko suggested a one-hour time limit for the Secretary General to inform himself that firing had ceased and report. Rafael of Israel asked whether Iraq or Kuwait had agreed to a cease-fire and repeated that Syria must also give orders to its commanders. Goldberg suggested that the Security Council adjourn and see if the fighting stops. India proposed that the Secretary General confirm within two hours that the necessary orders had been issued. Seydoux asked the Secretary General whether he could get information in two hours, and he said he could. Tabor proposed, after some back and forth, that the Security Council meet at 6:30 to hear the Secretary General's report on whether orders to cease-fire had been given and whether fighting had actually stopped.

(At the instant the meeting was adjourned, there was a request from Fedorenko and El Kony of the UAR to reconvene the meeting -- apparently because the report that Cairo was being bombed had reached them. They were too late to prevent adjournment and withdrew the request shortly afterward -- perhaps because they received later and better information about the nature of aircraft over Cairo.)

  
Nathaniel Davis

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~